

Add a bit of culture to that Leaving Cert holiday in Barcelona



Holiday snaps BY JIM MURTY

IF your Leaving Cert child is hitting the books (lucky you), if not, why not bribe them with a post-exam holiday? Herself is foregoing the Med's party spots and has booked a trip with her friends to Barcelona – it's never too early, right. Your diarist trusts what attracted her was Gaudi's architecture and particularly La Sagrada Família (left), first started in 1882 but still a work in progress with an expected finish date of 2026. When complete, it will be Europe's tallest religious building. When asked about the delay, Gaudi famously countered: 'My client can wait.' Don't you, though! Aer Lingus offers Dublin to Barcelona round trips from €82.98. And GoHop.ie is offering seven nights in the three-star Travelodge Hospitalet, on a room-only basis, from only €334pp. Includes

return flights ex. Dublin and seven nights' accommodation. Based on two adults sharing. Travel: June 19, 2016. Visit GoHop.ie or call 01-2412389.

CELTIC Galicia in the northwest of Spain is another tasty prospect, particularly as this month Santiago hosts its annual tapas festival and film festival Cineuropa. It's ideal for a city break or alternatively, why not double back and walk the last 111km from Sarria to Santiago and collect your Camino pilgrims passport? It costs from €560pp for a six-night trek from Sarria to Santiago, staying in CaminoWays.com-selected accommodation. Includes: half-board, luggage transfers and holiday

pack with practical info but not flights, transport and insurance. For more detail about trekking the last section of the Camino Francés, from Sarria to Santiago, with CaminoWays.com, visit www.caminoways.com or call (01) 525 2886.

ALLEYWAYS can be all very quaint but they can be a squeeze. Well, the good burghers of Prague have solved the problem of the 50cm wide alleyway Vinarna Certovka with

pedestrian traffic lights. Genius! A lot of thought goes into traffic lights. The East Germans have their fedora hat-wearing Ampelmännchen which have become merchandised on all manner of things. And the Austrians promoted hand-holding same couples for Eurovision. More traffic light madness as we find it but for now if you want to check out Prague's alleyways and much more besides, Aer Lingus offers a round trip from €115.98.

NOW Oktoberfest is over, Bavarians' thoughts turn to skiing. So why not join them. Spend seven nights in the four-star Alpenhotel Wittelsbach: in Ruhpolding, half board, from only €520pp. Inc: return flights ex. Dublin and seven nights' stay. Book by November 2 and take advantage of two for one on equipment hire. Travel: December 19. Landhotel Maiergschwendt: Seven nights in this three-star half board, from only €725pp. Inc: return flights ex. Dublin and seven nights' stay. Book by November 2 for two for one on equipment hire. Travel: December 19. Hotel Steinbach: Seven nights in the four-star Hotel Steinbach. Half board, from only €785pp. Inc: Return flights ex. Dublin and seven nights' stay. Book by November 2 for two for one on equipment hire. To book your holiday or to order a guide, call the Crystal Ski Holidays Specialists on (01) 4331080 or visit www.crystalski.ie. And remember this is Bavaria, so there will be plenty of beer and schnapps too, as your diarist recalls to his cost. Prost!



